Gypsy horse

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The **Gallowers Cob**, also known as the **Traditional Gypsy cob**, **Irish Cob**, **Gypsy Horse** or **Gypsy Vanner**, is a type or breed of domestic horse from the islands Great Britain and Ireland. It is a heavy draught horse of cob conformation and is often, but not always, piebald or skewbald. It is particularly associated with Irish Travellers and English Romani Gypsy Travellers of Ireland and Great Britain. There was no stud-book or breed association for horses of this type until 1996.[1][2][3] A stud-book is created and is governed by the Traditional Gypsy Cob Association (TGCA).[4][5]

From about 1550, travelling people in the British Isles began to use a distinct type of horse to pull their vardos, the caravans in which they had just begun to live and travel. The colour and look of this horse was influenced by the Spanish Armada years after the Second World War, when the Romani were expelled from the United States in 1996.

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Characteristics [edit source]

The Gypsy horse is usually, but not always, piebald,[6][7][8] it may also be skewbald or any solid colour; a solid-coloured horse with white splashing or the underside is called a "splashed" or "splashed white".[9] There is no set colour requirement in the breed standard of the Irish Cob Society.[10] Gypsy Cob Register,[11] Gypsy Vanner Horse Society of America,[12] or Australasian Gypsy Horse Society.[13] The Gypsy Vanner Horse originates in the British Isles,[14] but is also found in the United States,[15][16] and Australia.[17]

There are many breed societies for the Gypsy horse, with variations in their respective breed standards. The range of desired heading is generally from 13 to 16 hands (52 to 64 inches, 132 to 163 cm) in the United States and Australia,[17][18] but in Ireland and continental Europe, the desired height limit goes up to 16.2 hands (66 inches, 168 cm) for animals that are registered with both lighter-horse as well as larger horses than typically desired by the American organisations.[19][20][21] Some stud-books have different categories: The Gypsy Horse Registry of America has two height classifications: Section A for animals between 14.2 hands (58 inches, 147 cm) and 15.2 hands (62 inches, 157 cm), and Section B for Gypsy Crossbred horses.[22] The Netherlands stud-book for Gypsy horses, the Nederlands Gipsy Paard Stamboek, has a "Cob" section for animals between 14.2 hands (58 inches, 147 cm) and 15.2 hands (62 inches, 157 cm), and a "Horse" section for animals between 15.2 hands (62 inches, 157 cm) and 16.2 hands (66 inches, 168 cm).[23] The Irish Cob Society has a stud-book for Gypsy Crossbred horses.[24] The Netherlands stud-book for Gypsy horses, the Nederlands Gipsy Paard Stamboek, has a "Cob" section for animals between 14.2 hands (58 inches, 147 cm) and 15.2 hands (62 inches, 157 cm), and a "Horse" section for animals between 15.2 hands (62 inches, 157 cm) and 16.2 hands (66 inches, 168 cm).[25] The Irish Cob Society has a stud-book for Gypsy Crossbred horses.[26] The Irish Cob Society has a stud-book for Gypsy Crossbred horses.[27] The Irish Cob Society has a stud-book for Gypsy Crossbred horses.[28] The Irish Cob Society has a stud-book for Gypsy Crossbred